

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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IN THE MATTER OF THE  
APPLICATION BY CROCKER WIND  
FARM, LLC FOR A PERMIT OF A WIND  
ENERGY FACILITY AND A 345 KV  
TRANSMISSION LINE IN CLARK  
COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, FOR  
CROCKER WIND FARM

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\* CROCKER WIND FARM, LLC'S  
\* RESPONSES TO INTERVENORS'  
\* THIRD SET OF DATA REQUESTS

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\* EL17-055  
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Below please find Crocker Wind Farm, LLC's ("Crocker") Responses to Intervenor's Third Set of Data Requests.

**3-1) Provide the turbine number of each turbine currently proposed for siting on cultivated crop land.**

Melissa Schmit/Brie Anderson: Based on 2011 USGS GAP vegetation data, the following turbines are sited in cultivated crop land: 17, 20, 28, 41, 60, 61, 71, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 95, 96, 102, 114, 149, 150, 160, 165, 181, 221, 223, and 224.

**3-2) Provide the turbine number of each turbine currently proposed for siting on land which is under USFWS wetland easement contract.**

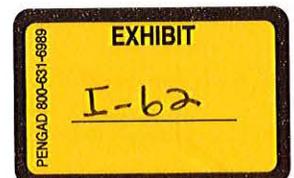
Melissa Schmit/Brie Anderson: There are no turbines sited on USFWS wetland easements. A USFWS wetland easement protects the wetland basin of a parcel; however, the upland area outside the wetland is not protected by the easement and therefore not subject to the USFWS jurisdiction. The USFWS provides digital data of easement boundaries by parcel indicating a protected wetland basin occurs somewhere on the parcel. In November 2017, the USFWS provided scanned maps of protected wetland basins within each of the parcels. Crocker digitized these protected wetland basins, which are reflected on Figure 15 of the Facility Permit Application. Crocker designed the Project to avoid permanent impacts to protected wetland basins.

**3-3) Has Crocker obtained necessary approvals from non-participating landowners, Spring Valley Township, and Clark County to cross the intersection northeast of turbine #228 with the proposed collection line? Please explain.**

Melissa Schmit: Refer to the response to DR 2-8 of Crocker's Responses to Staff's Second Set of Data Requests.

**3-4) Provide an updated map showing the location of known eagle nests within a 10-mile buffer around the proposed Crocker Wind Farm.**

Joyce Pickle: Refer to attached map.



**3-5) Has Crocker obtained, or does Crocker plan to obtain an “eagle take permit” from USFWS? Please explain.**

Melissa Schmit: Crocker believes there is a low-level risk for potential bald eagle mortality at the site. Crocker will consult with the USFWS regarding the results of the full two years of eagle use surveys, which will be completed in April, as well as the eagle nest surveys and discuss whether to seek an Eagle Take Permit and the approach to an associated Eagle Conservation Plan, if appropriate.

**3-6) On page 99 of Crocker’s Application it states there are 5,582 acres of USFWS grassland easements and 2,439 acres of USFWS wetland easements. There is no mention of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) easement land. How many acres of NRCS easement land lie within the project area?**

Melissa Schmit/Brie Anderson: Based on digital data from the National Conservation Easement (“NRCS”) Database (2017), there are 757 acres of NRCS easements in the Project Area, 306 acres of which overlap with USFWS protected wetland basins. The actual acres of enrollment are being confirmed with the local NRCS office.

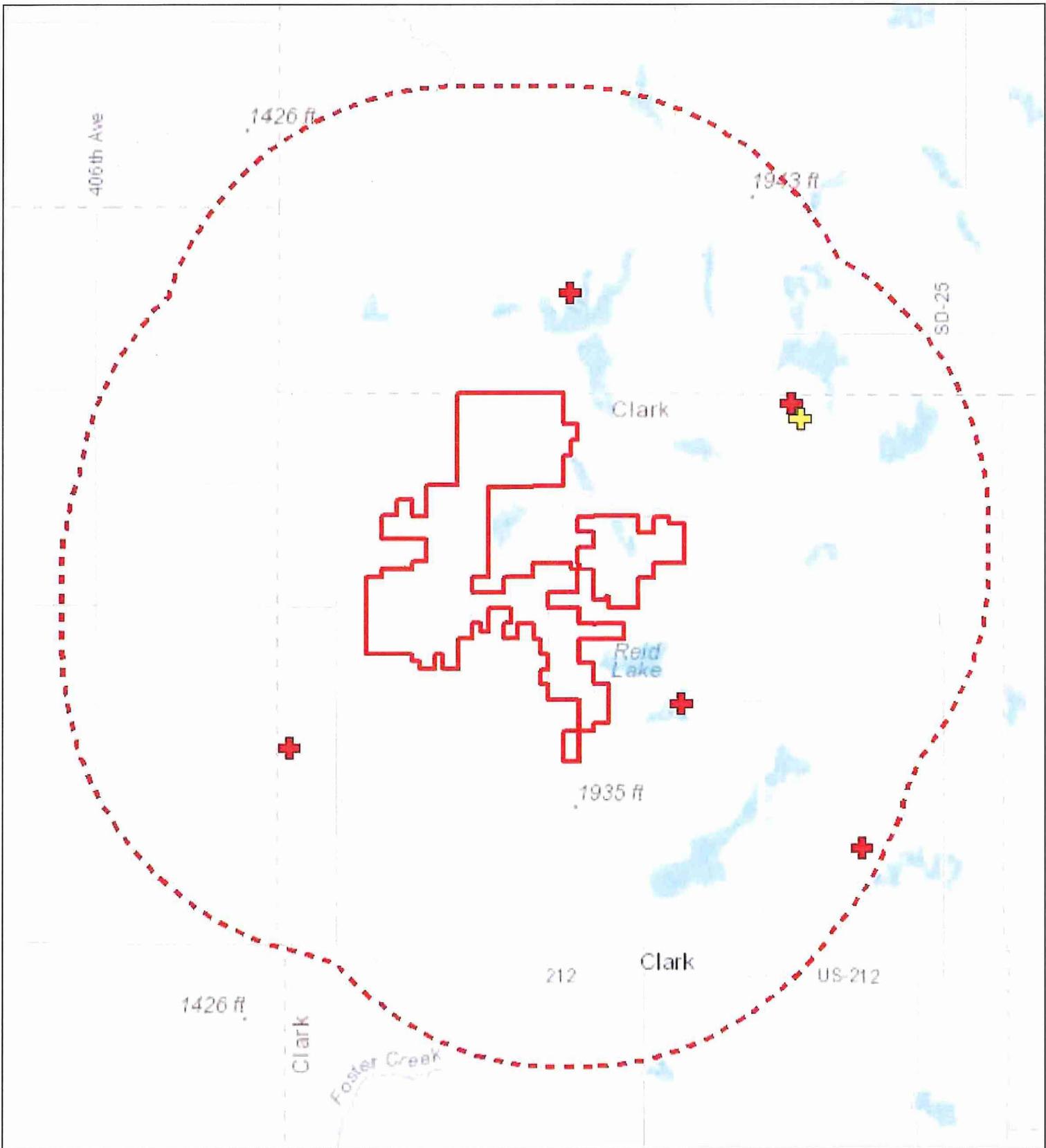
Based on the NRCS Database, approximately 18 acres of NRCS acres will be impacted (2 permanent and 16 temporary) by the Project. Crocker will reseed temporarily impacted areas. With respect to permanent impacts, Crocker will coordinate with the NRCS office to address those impacts, as appropriate.

Dated this 30th day of April, 2018.



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Melissa Schmit



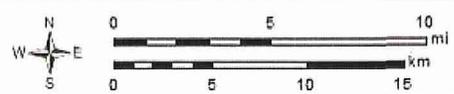
2017 Nest Survey  
Crocker



- Project Boundary ( current )
- Eagle Nest Survey Area (10-mi buffer)

**Species, Nest Status**

- BAEA, Occupied and Active
- BAEA (Historic), Unoccupied and Inactive



Data Source: ESRI World Topo, USGS Topo  
 Coordinate System: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere  
 Date: 4/25/2018 Author: Adam T. Kreger

